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Furthermore, it is believed that the resin-impregnated mats in the structure claimed in claims 41 to 51 can only be produced in the manner claimed as the method in claims 29 to 40.

A key difference between Broadway and the claimed invention is that the arrangement of the fibers in a structure resembling a textile is not impregnated with a resin but rather that this fiber arrangement is covered with a "melt blown polymer web". This, however, is a microfiber nonwoven fabric and does not represent an impregnation with resin. Thus, the Examiner's basis for finding lack of unity based on Broadway is believed to be misplaced.

The Examiner also cites DE 10005202 A1, which describes the continuous production of structural component- and process-oriented semifinished fiber products. Bundles of fibers are placed on a laying unit and fixed by seams oriented as desired. The seams represent the final structural component contour.

In addition, force transmission elements can still be integrated into the fiber structure and reinforcement structures (textile sheet fabrics, rovings) can be secured by stitching. In contrast, in the production of the resin-impregnated mats according to the presently claimed invention no fabric parts or fibers are fixed by sewing.

Furthermore, the Examiner provides a list of reasons purported to impose a serious burden on examination and search if restriction were not required, yet the Examiner has not identified which of these apply though it is noted that supposedly different classes need to be searched for the respective groups of claims. The Examiner has not, therefore, met the proper standard for imposing a restriction requirement.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the restriction requirement would be withdrawn.


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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-288-US. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By 
James R. Crawford
Reg. No. 39,155

666 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10103
(212) 318-3000